

1. (Previously Presented) A medication system for performing at least one health safety function, the system comprising:

at least one container for holding doses of medication, the container having a memory device containing specifying information useable to determine a prescribed dosing regimen for the medication;

a communication device;

a timing device; and

a processor and an associated surface, the processor for receiving the specifying information via radio frequency technology when the memory device is proximate the surface, the processor linked to the timing device and linkable to the communication device;

wherein, prior to an initial time the specifying information has not been received by the processor and, at the initial time the memory device is disposed proximate the surface and the processor receives the specifying information for the first time, the first time the processor receives the specifying information, the processor using the specifying information to identify prescribed dosing regimen information and performing at least one health safety function as a function of the prescribed dosing regimen information; and

wherein, the processor further uses the prescribed dosing regimen information to determine a predetermined time to take the medication, uses the timing device to identify the predetermined time and causes the communication device to indicate when the predetermined time occurs.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the container is supportable adjacent the surface such that the memory device is adjacent the surface.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4 wherein the container includes a container surface that faces the associated surface ~~is a sensor surface, when the container is supported adjacent the associated surface the container includes at least one facing container surface adjacent the sensor surface.~~

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the surface includes an aligner for aligning the container with a portion of the surface.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7 wherein the aligner includes indicia on the surface.

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7 wherein the facing surface has a first shape and the aligner has a second shape and the first and second shapes are essentially identical.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein the container is a vial.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 154 wherein the timing device, processor, communication device and sensor form a portable device.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12 wherein the portable device includes a strap such that the device is wrist mountable.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 154 wherein timing device, processor, communication device and sensor form a console for stationary use.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one container includes several containers, each container includes a memory device, the surface can be proximate more than one memory device at a time and, wherein, when more than one memory device is proximate the surface, the processor retrieves the specifying information from each of the memory devices.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 154 further including an enclosure wherein the sensor and the sensing area are concealed within the enclosure and the communication device is outside the enclosure.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the communication device includes a visual display.

18. (Original) The system of claim 15 further including a separate communication device for each of the several containers, the communication devices attached to the containers.

19. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the health safety function includes indicating when a medication is being consumed at a non-optimal time, the system further including a consumption indicator, the consumption indicator activatable to indicate when a dose of medication is to be consumed, wherein the processor receives and uses the specifying information to identify a predetermined prescribed time to take the medication, the processor monitors the consumption indicator to determine when a medication is to be consumed and, when a medication is to be consumed, the processor uses the timing device to determine if the time to consume is consistent with the predetermined time to consume.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19 further including a communication devices linkable to the processor and wherein, when the time to consume is inconsistent with the predetermined time to consume, the processor indicates that the medication should not be consumed at the time indicated by the consumption indicator.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20 ~~further including a sensor defining a sensing area, the sensor for receiving the specifying information when the memory device is within the sensing area, wherein the indicator is activated when and the sensor are integral so that one of placing the specifying device is placed proximate the associated surface and the specifying device is removed from the associated surface~~ on and removing the specifying device from the sensor area indicates the consumption time.

22. (Currently Amended) A medication system for performing at least one health safety function, the system comprising:

at least one container for holding doses of medication, the container having a specifying device containing specifying information useable to determine a prescribed dosing regimen for the medication;

a sensor defining a sensing area, the sensing area capable of receiving at least two specifying devices at the same time, the sensor for receiving the specifying information from each of the specifying devices within the sensing area via RF communication; and

a processor;

wherein, prior to an initial time the specifying information has not been received by the processor and, at the initial time, the memory device is disposed proximate the sensor and the sensor receives the specifying information and provides the specifying information to the processor ~~receives the specifying information~~ for the first time, the first time the processor receives the specifying information, the processor using the specifying information to identify prescribed dosing regimen information and performing at least one health safety function as a function of the prescribed dosing regimen information.

23. (Original) The systems of claim 22 further including a communication device linkable to the processor the communication device capable of indicating any of the containers.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23 further including a timing device linked to the processor wherein, when more than one specifying device is within the sensing area, the processor receives and uses the specifying information for each specifying device in the sensing area to identify prescribed dosing regimen information

and a predetermined time to take each of the medications, the processor uses the timing device to determine when the predetermined time occurs for each of the medications and the processor causes the communication device to indicate the medications to be consumed at the predetermined times.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein the sensing area includes at least first and second separate sensing areas for receiving specifying information from separate specifying devices.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein the communication device includes a separate visual warning indicator adjacent each of the sensing areas and, wherein, the communication device indicates which medication to consume by activating the visual warning indicator adjacent medication to be consumed.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the sensor includes a sensor surface and the sensor surface includes a sensing section and a non-sensing section for each of the sensing areas, the sensing areas only adjacent the sensing sections and the sensor includes a separate aligner for each of the sensing sections distinguishing the sensing sections from the non-sensing section.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the sensor defines a sensor surface, when containers are supported adjacent on the sensing surface the containers each include at least one facing surface adjacent the sensor surface, the specifying devices attached to the facing surfaces.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28 wherein the facing surfaces each have a first shape and the aligners each have a second shape and the first and second shapes are essentially identical.

30. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein the specifying device is a bar code.

31. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein the specifying device is an electronic memory device.

32. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the communication device includes at least one communication device for each container and a separate communication device is attached to each container.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28 wherein the processor periodically causes the sensor to scan the sensing area to identify specifying devices in the sensing area.

34. (Original) The system of claim 33 wherein each container includes a separate communication device and wherein the processor is linkable to the communication devices to control each communication device.

35. (Original) The system of claim 34 wherein the processor controls the communication device via wireless communication.

36. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the communication device includes a visual display.

37. (Original) The system of claim 22 also for use in recording medication consumption times, the system further including a readable and writable memory device and a consumption indicator that are linkable to the processor, the consumption indicator operable to obtain consumption time information which the processor records in the memory device.

38. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the sensor and consumption indicator are integral such that one of placing and removing a specifying device in the sensing area comprises operation of the consumption indicator.

39. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the memory device and the specifying device are integral.

40. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the processor is a remote server processor linkable to the sensor and the communication device via a computer network.

41-153. (Cancelled).

154. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 further including a sensor defining a sensing area ~~adjacent the associated surface, the sensor for receiving the specifying information when the memory device is within the sensing area.~~



155. (New) A method for use with a medication system for performing at least one health safety function wherein the medication system comprises at least one container for holding doses of medication, a communication device, a timing device and a processor that is associated with a surface, the container having a memory device containing specifying information useable to determine a prescribed dosing regimen for the medication, wherein the processor is linked to the timing device and is linkable to the communication device, the method comprising the steps of:

using the processor to perform the steps of:

at an initial time when the memory device is disposed proximate the surface, receiving the specifying information via radio frequency technology;

when the processor receives the specifying information for the first time, using the specifying information to identify prescribed dosing regimen information and performing at least one health safety function as a function of the prescribed dosing regimen information; and

using the prescribed dosing regimen information to determine a predetermined time to take the medication;

using the timing device to identify the predetermined time; and

causing the communication device to indicate when the predetermined time occurs.

156. (New) The method of claim 155 wherein there are at least first and second containers containing first and second medications, respectively, each container having a memory device containing specific information, the step of receiving the specifying information including receiving the specifying information from each memory device and the step of performing at least one health safety function including at least one of determining the first and second medications can be consumed together and determining the first and second medications can be consumed at a common time.

157. (New) The method of claim 155 wherein the step of performing at least one health safety function includes at least one of determining a patient is allergic to the medication, determining a medication consumption time should be modified based on at least one vital sign measurement, determining a medication consumption time should be modified based on instructions from a remote server, providing an alert when medication is consumed outside a specific time period, and storing and displaying consumption data.

158. (New) The method of claim 155 wherein the step of performing at least one health safety function includes at least one of determining a medication consumption time should be modified based on a questionnaire, presenting messages based on medication consumed, and presenting questionnaires based on consumed medication.